

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs (1) for robotic applications for the resistance welding of workpieces and, in particular, sheet metals, of the type including tong arms (3) which are each pivotally mounted on a base body (2) and adjustable by an actuating means (13) and to which electrode holders (4) for the electrodes (5) are fastened, and further including winding means (7) comprising a wind-off roller (10) and a wind-up roller (11) for winding off and on a strip (6) for the protection of at least one electrode (5), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wind-off roller (10) and the wind-up roller (11) of the winding means (7) are arranged on the base body (2) or on the tong arm (3), and that at least one guiding groove (8) is provided on the tong arm (3) and/or on the electrode holder (4) for the guidance of the strip (6) along the tong arm (3).

Claim 2 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein means for guiding and deflecting the strip (6), in particular deflection pulleys and slide surface (9), are provided on the tong arm (3) and/or electrode holder (4).

Claim 3 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to ~~claim 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the wind-off roller (10) and/or the wind-up roller (11) is coupled with a driving means (12) and, in particular, an electronically activatable motor.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tong arm (3) is formed by a base section (15), and that side pieces (16) are arranged on either side of the base section (15) to project beyond the base section (15), and thus formed depression is designed as a guiding groove (8) for the strip (6).

Claim 5 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to claims 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one cover plate (18) is arranged on the end sides (17) of the side pieces (16) to cover the guiding groove (8) formed between the side pieces (16).

Claim 6 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tong arm (3) is formed by a base section with the guiding groove (8) being incorporated in the base section (15).

Claim 7 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to

~~one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1,
wherein the guiding groove (8) is formed by additional guiding
elements (19) which are provided, for instance slipped or screwed,
on the tong arm (3) and/or electrode holder (4).

Claim 8 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to
~~one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1,
wherein the tong arm (3) is comprised of several individual
components (29) which are connected with one another in a manner
that a hollow space (21) is formed in the center of the tong arm
(3) for the guidance of the strip (6).

Claim 9 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to
~~one or several of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 1,
wherein a braking device (22) is provided to fix and stretch the
strip (6).

Claim 10 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according
to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the braking device (22)
is connected with a control unit (23).

Claim 11 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs (1) for
robotic applications for the resistance welding of workpieces and,
in particular, sheet metals, of the type including tong arms (3)

which are each pivotally mounted on a base body (2) and adjustable by an actuating means and to which electrode holder s(4) for the electrodes (5) are fastened, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tong arms (3) are each comprised of a main element (24) which is prestressed by at least one drag strut or drag rope (25).

Claim 12 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one retaining plate (26) is arranged on the main element (24) of the tong arm (3), via which retaining plate the at least one drag strut or the drag rope (25) is guided in a spaced-apart relationship to the main element (24).

Claim 13 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to ~~claim 11 or 12, characterized in that~~ claim 11, wherein the main element (24) is formed by a round section.

Claim 14 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to ~~one or several of claims 11 to 13, characterized in that~~ claim 11, wherein the at least one drag strut, or the drag rope (25), is arranged on that side of the main element (24), on which the electrode holder (4) extends.

Claim 15 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to

~~one or several of claims 11 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 11,
wherein a holding strut or a holding rope (27) is provided in
addition to the at least one drag strut or drag rope (25),
respectively.

Claim 16 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according
to ~~one or several of claims 11 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim
11, wherein the at least one drag strut, or the drag rope (25),
and/or the holding strut, or the holding rope 27, are arranged at
an angle of between 10° and 30° relative to the main element (24) of
the tong arm (3).

Claim 17 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to
~~one or several of claims 11 to 16, characterized in that~~ claim 11,
wherein the drag strut, or the drag rope (25), and optionally the
holding strut, or the holding rope (27), extend from that side of
the main element (24), to which the electrode holder (4) is
attached, as far as to the opposite side of the base body (2) on
the main element (24).

Claim 18 (currently amended): Spot welding tongs according to
~~one or several of claims 11 to 17, characterized in that~~ claim 11,
wherein guiding grooves (8) are formed on the tong arms (3) to each
receive a strip (6) for the protection of the electrodes (5)
~~according to claims 1 to 10.~~